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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inaugural Palm Beach State College Foundation Golf Classic at Bear Lakes Country Club nets \$91,000 for student scholarships and programs

(Lake Worth, Fla. – May 5, 2010) The Palm Beach State College Foundation successfully raises more than \$91,000 for student scholarships and programs during its inaugural Golf Classic held April 23 at Bear Lakes Country Club. The Jack Nicklaus-designed Lakes Course was the setting for the sold-out tournament, with 36 foursomes taking to the links for the 1 p.m. shotgun start.

The McDonalds North County team of Chris Cole, Charlie Gantz, Richard Tearga and Ricky Wade took first place with a team score of 56. Second place, with a team score of 59, went to the Honda Classic Golf Exchange team of Andy Cagatna, Jason Dollard, Russel Evans and Steve Orchard. Third place went to a foursome of Palm Beach State students, the first to ever play in the Golf Classic: Alex Hoyas, John Granowitz, Chris Mason and Ernesto Salazor, who shot a score of 60.

The tournament also included two hole-in-one challenges, Beat the Junior Golfer contest with foursomes competing with local youth golfer Andre Wade, and a putting challenge on the 18th green with College President Dennis Gallon.

The Golf Classic ended with a cocktail reception, award ceremony and a raffle drawing, with radio host Russel Evans acting as emcee. The drawing included the grand prize of an all-expense-paid, five day Royal Caribbean cruise.

The attendees at the reception also listened to Sandy Exilhomme talk about how events like the Golf Classic benefit him directly. Sandy is a first-year Palm Beach State student from Haiti enrolled in the nursing program.

“Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but it has made me realize the value of a college education,” Exilhomme said. “Thanks to the scholarship from the Foundation and their support, I am the first in my family to attend college. I am truly grateful for the assistance that I am receiving. When I graduate, I hope that I can use what I have learned here to make a difference in people’s lives.”

The Palm Beach state Golf Classic was presented by L.D. Astorino and Associates. Major sponsors included; 97.9 WRMF, Balfour Beatty Construction, Fastrack MCI, Hedrick Brothers Construction, Honda Classic Golf Exchange, Lotspeich Co. of Florida, Pepsi Americas, Pirtle Construction, Suffolk Construction and W.G. Mills.

“We have always placed a strong emphasis promoting the academic and educational needs of our local community,” said Rex Kirby, president of Suffolk Construction, one of the sponsors of the Golf Classic. “Suffolk believes the best way to give back to the community is by supporting the growth of Palm Beach State College. We felt a way to make an immediate impact is by sponsoring the Golf Classic. Additionally, we made a long term commitment by establishing the first B.A.S. annual scholarship beginning this fall. It gives us great pleasure that Suffolk is able to contribute to the future success of Palm Beach State.”

Serving more than 49,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing the bachelor's degree, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida's first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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